

## WHAT WE CLAIM:

- 5     1.     A medical device, comprising:  
operational electronics; and  
an alteration mechanism associated with the operational electronics, the alteration  
mechanism providing alteration of operational electronics.
- 10    2.     The medical device of claim 1, wherein the operational electronics supports a  
configurable component and the alteration mechanism provides alteration of the  
configurable component.
- 15    3.     The medical device of claim 2, wherein the operational electronics supports a  
programmable component and the alteration mechanism provides alteration of the  
programmable component.
- 20    4.     The medical device of claim 2, wherein the configurable component supports  
configuring software and the alteration mechanism comprises configuring alteration  
software that alters the configurable component by altering the configuring software.
5.     The medical device of claim 4, wherein alteration of the configurable component  
is temporary.
- 25    6.     The medical device of claim 4, wherein configuring software is omitted, in whole  
or in part, and the configuring alteration software alters the configurable component by  
overcoming omission of the configuring software, in whole or in part.
- 30    7.     The medical device of claim 4, wherein the alteration mechanism comprises  
alteration electronics, the alteration electronics providing alteration of the configurable  
component.
8.     The medical device of claim 7, wherein the configurable component is omitted  
from the operational electronics, in whole or in part, and the alteration electronics

provides alteration by overcoming omission of the configurable component, in whole or in part.

9. The medical device of claim 2, wherein the alteration mechanism comprises alteration electronics, the alteration electronics providing alteration of the configurable component.

10. The medical device of claim 9, wherein the configurable component is omitted from the operational electronics, in whole or in part, and the alteration mechanism provides alteration electronics which alter the operational electronics by overcoming omission of the configurable component, in whole or in part.

11. The medical device of claim 10, wherein the operational electronics supports a programmable component and the alteration electronics alter the programmable component.

12. The medical device of claim 11, wherein the programmable component is omitted from the operational electronics, in whole or in part, and the alteration mechanism provides alteration electronics which alter the operational electronics by overcoming omission of the programmable component, in whole or in part.

13. The medical device of claim 9, wherein the operational electronics supports a programmable component and the alteration electronics alter the programmable component.

14. A medical device, comprising:  
operational electronics; and  
an alteration mechanism associated with the operational electronics, the alteration mechanism providing alteration of the operational electronics, such alteration including provision of interface functionality.

15. The medical device of claim 14, wherein the alteration mechanism comprises an alteration board.

16. The medical device of claim 14, wherein the alteration mechanism supports networking.

17. A medical device, comprising:  
5 operational electronics;  
embedded software associated with operational electronics so as to determine function, in whole or in part, of operational electronics; and,  
an alteration mechanism, associated with the operational electronics, the alteration mechanism providing alteration of the embedded software.

10 18. The medical device of claim 17, wherein the operational electronics supports a configurable component, the embedded software supports configuring software associated with the configurable component, and the alteration mechanism provides configuring alteration software that alters the configuring software.

15 19. The medical device of claim 18, wherein the operational electronics supports a programmable component, the embedded software supports programming software associated with the programmable component, and the alteration mechanism provides programming alteration software that alters the programming software.

20 20. The medical device of claim 19, wherein the programming software is omitted, in whole or in part, and the programming alteration software alters the embedded software by overcoming omission of the programming software, in whole or in part.

25 21. The medical device of claim 18, wherein the configuring software is omitted, in whole or in part, and the configuring alteration software alters the embedded software by overcoming omission of the configuring software, in whole or in part.

30 22. The medical device of claim 17, wherein the embedded software includes default software and the alteration mechanism provides alteration software, such that the default software determines function, in whole or in part, of the operational electronics when the alteration software is not used.

23. The medical device of claim 17, wherein the alteration software provides alteration that is temporary.
24. The medical device of claim 17, wherein the alteration software provides alteration that is quasi-permanent.
25. The medical device of claim 17, wherein the alteration software provides alteration that is permanent.
26. The medical device of claim 17, wherein the alteration mechanism provides alteration software, the alteration software supporting interface functionality.
27. The medical device of claim 26, wherein the alteration software includes a communication stack so as to support networking.
28. A medical imaging system, including a scope and one or more medical devices, the system comprising:  
operational electronics associated with at least one medical device;  
embedded software associated with operational electronics so as to determine function, in whole or in part, of a medical device; and,  
an alteration mechanism associated with the operational electronics, the alteration mechanism providing alteration of at least one of operational electronics and embedded software.
29. The medical imaging system of claim 28, wherein the operational electronics supports a configurable component and the alteration mechanism provides alteration of the configurable component.
30. The medical imaging system of claim 29, wherein the operational electronics supports a programmable component and the alteration mechanism provides alteration of the programmable component.
31. The medical imaging system of claim 30, wherein the embedded software supports configuring software associated with the configurable component, and the

alteration mechanism provides configuring alteration software that alters the configuring software.

5 32. The medical imaging system of claim 31, wherein the embedded software supports programming software associated with the programmable component, and the alteration mechanism provides programming alteration software that alters the programming software.

10 33. The medical imaging system of claim 29, wherein the embedded software supports configuring software associated with the configurable component, and the alteration mechanism provides configuring alteration software that alters the configuring software.

15 34. An imaging system, including a scope and one or more working devices, the system comprising:  
operational electronics associated with at least one working device;  
embedded software associated with operational electronics so as to determine function, in whole or in part, of a working device; and,  
an alteration mechanism associated with the operational electronics, the  
20 alteration mechanism providing alteration of at least one of operational electronics and embedded software.

25 35. The imaging system of claim 34, wherein the operational electronics supports a configurable component and the alteration mechanism provides alteration of the configurable component.

36. The imaging system of claim 35, wherein the operational electronics supports a programmable component and the alteration mechanism provides alteration of the programmable component.

30 37. The imaging system of claim 36, wherein the embedded software supports configuring software associated with the configurable component, and the alteration mechanism provides configuring alteration software that alters the configuring software.

38. The imaging system of claim 37, wherein the embedded software supports programming software associated with the programmable component, and the alteration mechanism provides programming alteration software that alters the programming software.

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39. The imaging system of claim 35, wherein the embedded software supports configuring software associated with the configurable component, and the alteration mechanism provides configuring alteration software that alters the configuring software.

10 40. The system of claim 28, wherein the medical device is a camera.

41. The system of claim 34, wherein the working device is a camera.